

# **Crafting a Successful ETS/CGS Award Proposal: From Design to Implementation**

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**CGS Summer Workshop 2025**

# Introduction to the ETS/CGS Award

- **Purpose:** Recognizes innovative initiatives that enhance graduate student success from admission to degree completion.
- **Focus Areas:** Admissions practices, mentoring, support programs, intellectual enrichment, and social support.
- **Eligibility:** Open to U.S. and Canadian institutions.
- **Award:** \$20,000 matching grant over two years.
- **Deadline:** September 5 for the 2025 cycle.

# Key Criteria for Success

- **Innovation:** Must introduce novel approaches or significantly improve existing practices.
- **Impact:** Demonstrates measurable improvements in student outcomes.
- **Inclusivity:** Promotes diversity and inclusion within graduate education.
- **Scalability:** Potential for replication at other institutions.
- **Sustainability:** Plans for long-term implementation beyond the award period.

# Successful ETS/CGS Proposals

2024	University of Maryland, College Park	Graduate Faculty Learning Communities to Support Student Success
2023	California State University, Bakersfield	The Next Step: Building Career Readiness among Graduate Students across the CSU
2022	Morgan State University	Teaching Assistant Project (TAP)
2021	University of Montana	Completing the Circle: Supporting the Success of Native Graduate Students
2020	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Addressing Systemic Racism through Structured Learning Communities
2019	Wayne State University	Success for Underrepresented Students in Graduate Education (SURGE)
2018	Vanderbilt University	Supporting the Transformation from Students to Leaders
2017	University of Washington	U501: Extend the Reach
2016	Cornell University	Cornell University Innovative Inclusion Interventions (I3): Promoting Graduate Student Success through Advancements in the Climate of Graduate Education
2015	UCLA	Smart Recommendations: Digital Guidance & Support throughout a UCLA Graduate Student's Academic Career
2014	Duke University	Duke OPTIONS: Online Professional Development Tool for Individual OpportuNitieS
2013	Florida International University	Academy of Graduates for Integrative Learning Experiences (AGILE): A Synergistic Community of Doctoral Scholars
2012	University of Illinois at Chicago	Promoting Success in STEM Graduate Education Scholars Program (PaSSaGE Scholars Program)
2011	Eastern Illinois University	The Integrative Graduate Studies Institute
2010	Michigan State University	The Whole Student Experience: Admissions to Student Success
2009	University of CA, Davis	Mentoring at Critical Transitions: Faculty Readiness from Admission to Completion

# Morgan State University's MSTAP Initiative



- **Program:** Morgan's Structured Teaching Assistant Project (MSTAP).
- **Objective:** Develop doctoral students' instructional skills and teaching philosophies.
- **Structure:** Series of four courses focusing on higher education instruction and assessment. First two are required for **all** TAs. **The ETS/GRE award supported course development.**
- **Key Features:**
  - Progressive development from novice to proficient instructional skills.
  - Community of learners and coaches.
  - Emphasis on inclusion and diversity.
- **Outcome:** Proficiency in teaching with a reflective and inclusive approach.

# Impact of Morgan State's MSTAP

- **Student Success:** Enhanced teaching effectiveness among doctoral students.
- **Faculty Development:** Strengthened mentorship and instructional support.
- **Institutional Growth:** Aligned with Morgan State's goal to elevate its Carnegie Classification.
- **Replicability:** Serves as a model for other institutions aiming to improve TA training and student success.

# CSUB's "The Next Step" Initiative

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**Program:** "The Next Step: Building Career Readiness Among Graduate Students across the CSU."

**Objective:** Enhance career readiness among graduate students through co-curricular programming.

**Collaboration:** Involvement of eight CSU campuses, impacting over 50,000 graduate students.

**Focus Areas:** Career and self-development, communication, critical thinking, equity and inclusion, leadership, professionalism, teamwork, and technology.

**Outcome:** Prepared graduate students for diverse career paths across various fields.

# Impact of CSUB's Initiative

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**Statewide Reach:** Expanded access to career readiness programs across California.

**Scalability:** Model for other state systems to implement similar initiatives.

**Workforce Alignment:** Aligns graduate education with workforce demands and expectations.

**Sustainability:** Leveraged matching funds from the Chancellor's Office to support long-term implementation.





# Discussion Questions

- **Idea Generation:**

- What unique challenges do our graduate students face that could be addressed through innovation?
- How can we leverage existing resources to create impactful programs?

- **Sustainability:**

- What strategies can ensure the longevity of the proposed initiative?
- How can we secure funding and institutional support beyond the initial grant?

- **Implementation:**

- What steps are necessary to pilot the program effectively?
- How will we measure success and make data-driven adjustments?